MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know from the honourable member whether new copper coins are minted and issued now?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: Yes, Sir.

Currency.

81. *MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state the total value of currency notes issued by the Central Government, the Provincial Governments and the Reserve Bank, in circulation within the State?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: The information is not available.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Deputy President*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. I wish to know whether questions of this sort are admissible. I want the information for future guidance.

PRESIDENT: Apparently the idea is that the Travancore Government are somehow aware of the number of currency notes issued by the Government of India which are circulated in Travancore. In the nature of things it is impossible to say that because unless we have the statistics of currency notes in the possession of persons coming from British India it is difficult to give the information. There is no idea of the total value of currency notes issued by the Central Government for they are issued by the Reserve Bank of India and they may not give the information. Even what information you may get may not be accurate, because some notes are being hoarded. Therefore we have only to say that the information is not available.

Earnings of officers entrusted with the collection of paddy.

32 *MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have enquired whether several of the officers entrusted with the collection of paddy for Government have earned and deposited in certain banks sums far exceeding what they could have earned out of their salary?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter is receiving the attention of Government.

Complaint against Revenue Officers.

33 *MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any complaint against Revenue officers alleging corruption and malpractices in the collection of paddy for Government; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken thereon?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is being enquired into and disciplinary action taken in deserving cases.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER: May I know from the Honourable Member what steps have been taken to bring the corrupt persons to book?

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RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Whenever instances of corruption are brought to the notice of Government disciplinary action is taken against the subordinates concerned. Government have recently instituted enquiries against certain subordinates connected with the collection and distribution of paddy against whom there was a *prima facie* suspicion. An Honourable Judge of the High Court has been appointed to enquire into those cases and the enquiry is now proceeding. Enquiries relating to certain cases have been completed and 36 persons have been honourably acquitted.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know from the Honourable Member who gave the information about corruption?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Allegations were made on the floor of the House by non-official members of this House and the Government started an enquiry. As a preliminary step, the Registration Department was asked to see whether subordinate officers connected with the purchase and distribution and transport of food grains had acquired properties in their names or the names of their close relatives during the last few months. These cases were taken against them without pre-judging their guilt.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know who mentioned their names?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Names have not been mentioned.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether any preliminary enquiry was made before suspending the subordinates?

PRESIDENT: Honourable Members are apparently under a slight mistake. There is a Latin maxim *res ipsa loquitor*— that speaks itself. Certain charges were made against certain subordinates which the Government did not fully accept. They thought that taking advantage of their position and responsibility either for collection or for distribution of paddy or rice, some subordinates of the Revenue, Police and Excise Departments were acquiring large sums of money. I think a question has been put with regard to their bank balances. It came to the notice of government that in recent times there were a large number of mortgage and sale transactions in favour of certain officers or their close relatives. Government decided to hold an enquiry as to the source of the funds for these various transactions. Those people were suspended and an enquiry was ordered against them. It so happened that in about 30 cases those who gave very satisfactory explanations were honourably acquitted. Their names will be published. There are other cases on the borderland and certain others of suspicion. What Government are anxious about is the source of their sudden acquisition of money and land. From the Dewan down to the Proverthicar all must be open to scrutiny.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I also know whether any Tahsildar has been acquitted?

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PRESIDENT: I am ordering the complete list being published in the Gazette.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether officers who have nothing to do with the purchase of rice or paddy are also included in the list?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: One of those against whom the enquiry was started was found to be not connected with this transaction and he was restored to his former position.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Ayiroor* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether any person has been convicted so far?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: We have received only judgments of acquittals so far. The enquiry is proceeding.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether any subordinate who was on leave continuously for 12 months has been included in the list?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: In acquiring properties persons who may have been on leave may have described themselves as Proverthicars and one or two such cases have been included in the list.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: പരാതി കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാവരെയും സസ്പെൻഷനിൽ നിന്നുകയാണോ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: പരാതി കിട്ടിയവരുടെ മേൽ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തുകയും ശിക്ഷാർഹന്മാരാണെന്നു കണ്ടവരെ കഠിനമായി ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Supply of rice to the Kottayam and Vaikom taluks.

34 * **MR. K. R. NARAYANAN** (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many bags of rice have been supplied to each of the taluks of Kottayam and Vaikom?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Food Grains Purchase Officer*): The question is vague as the period for which the information is sought has not been specified.

Paddy collected in Travancore.

35 * **MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state the total quantity of paddy collected in Travancore under the Government's Food Grains Purchase Scheme, and the total cost involved?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: The collection is not yet complete.

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH: May I know when the collection is expected to be completed?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: The collection will not be completed till the purchase is over.

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH: May I know whether the purchase has been completed?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No.

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